

# MICROCON

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## MY COMPUTER HAS FROZEN.

Mayling Hargreaves

I had this query from a friend: "Computer is freezing up at every opportunity. I checked memory status. It says physical memory 64MB, available memory 400KB, virtual memory 4GB, used .5GB so there is very little on hard disc but how do you free up the operating side/ Any ideas would be gratefully received we have deleted all temporary, internet files recycled bin etc but no difference"

Dear Friend.

It happens to us too! Your memory status does look very low. Does it say that immediately after you've started the PC? There are some things you can try. This is based on Windows 98 ME but the other 98SE and 98 are the same in principle.

Sometimes when you come out of a program bits are left behind, no sign left on the taskbar, but if you press Cntl-Alt-Del, you get a list of what is still there and can get rid of the ones that have not left properly. Although in spite of this there still may be bits left around, and I've not yet found out how to get rid of them.

When you install a new program, often part is included in 'startup', often quite unnecessarily as the same programs are available from Start - Programs - etc.

First thing to check is the 'Startup' Group.

Go to the bottom bar, to the left of the system tray and right click, in a blank area.

When panel comes up, left click 'properties', click 'advanced' tab, click 'advanced' box, and up comes an explorer type screen, with 'programs'. Click on the "+" sign to expand the list, and click on "Startup".

If there are things there that you only rarely use, move them by dragging them to the 'Disabled Startup Items' Then close the whole panel. I only have 'MS Office Shortcut bar' and 'Worldtime' which is not necessary,

but I like it as it plays Westminster chimes every quarter hour!

I also use that method of moving programs into groups, such as Utilities.

Before you start next bit, look at the system tray, the one at bottom right of screen, with the loudspeaker and other icons. Run the mouse pointer over them and see what they say. Gives you an idea what it loading, and you can decide what it not immediately necessary. Many programs put themselves in the 'system Tray' on installation, which is not necessary and carries an overhead by using some memory. 'Real' and some of the graphics programs are guilty in this respect.

Secondly, Go to Start, Run, and up comes a panel with a blank space to type in.

Type in 'msconfig', click OK, and up comes another panel, with a number of tabs - (if you have used 'msconfig' before use the arrow to find it). Maximise the panel so you can see the list of files accessed on the right hand side. One of the tabs is labelled 'Startup', click it, and there are all the programs loaded at startup in order to make them load quicker.

That may be so, but they can slow down the system, because they all take up space. Windows only needs 'systray' and explorer'.

I'd leave the anti virus and firewall there if you have them.

But you do not need 'real' which is an audio player, and a great one for getting in the startup group.

Also some of the graphics programs. Untick the less necessary programs, click OK, and restart the PC.

Sometimes you have to unclick more than one box to get rid of a program at startup. Check after restarting.

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If you can't work out by the placing of the files or their names whether they are a vital part of windows, or an unnecessary drain, go online and use 'Google' search engine, and type in the file name, this will most likely give you the answer!

Another thing is don't have too many icons on the desktop, as apparently they take up memory too.

If all this does not work, remember which programs have a problem, and either restart the machine before using, or restart immediately after.

Also go to the Microsoft archives at <http://support.microsoft.com> for more information.

Hope this helps.

## EDITORIAL

Apologies for the late delivery of the December 2003 edition. Lack of contributions, as ever!

Since the October issue the AGM has been held. The directors of ACCA and positions held are:

Peter Jensen - President  
John Innes - Deputy President  
Warren Storey - Secretary  
Peter Fischer - Hon Treasurer  
Stephen Kuhl

Mayling Hargreaves and Sam Burgess decided not to stand for the Board again as their travel arrangements will change during this year which will make it impossible to fulfil their responsibilities as directors of ACCA. This development had been foreseen as a possibility and had been mentioned to other Board members over the last year. It's is with considerable regret that we decided not to allow our names to go forward for election.

Mayling has been a director since 1988, Secretary since 1988 and Co-editor with Peter Jensen since 1993. She will continue as a co-editor, a function that can be carried out anywhere in the world, but would prefer that someone else put their hand up.

So while stepping down as a director with some regret, Mayling has agreed at the request of Peter Jensen to stay on in the role of co-editor for the time being.

She is sad to leave her post but the time has come to 'spend more time with her family'.

Sam Burgess has been a director, since 1988, and Chairman last year. He has stood down for the same reasons.

In relation to prospective increased togetherness, Mayling was heard to say 'for better or worse but not for lunch'.



# THE FRENCH MINITEL (PART 2)

Jack Kessler

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(The first part of this article was published in the August 2003 issue. Ed)

## 4.0 Minitel-Internet?

In addition to its enormous installation of Minutels, large and increasing Minitel usage, and positive Minitel cash flow (albeit, in this last case, only after a decade of "startup" losses), France now boasts one of the world's more significant growth curves in Internet usage.

With 113,974 hosts in July 1995, France ranked 7th in the world in host connectivity outside the US, after the UK, Germany, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, and Japan [<http://www.nw.com> -- the US case, and a growing proportion of the overseas case, are distorted by inconsistencies in the assignment of ".org", ".net", ".com", ".edu", and ".net", in international cases]: this for a nation of only 58 million people [<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/95fact/>] and which only a few decades ago possessed a telephony system reputed to be among Europe's worst. Even more important than total numbers, France's recent increase in Internet hosts -- 615% in three years -- makes it one of the more significant foreign markets and competitors to watch, as the Internet expands and "scales up and out" from its US base.

Minitel is expanding as well. The greatest practical difficulty has been the slowness of the system. Minitel originally was designed with the lowest common denominator human typist in mind: normal people do not type very fast, and some sacrifices in typing efficiency were made in the design of the original Minitel keyboards -- so it was thought that a moderate typing speed of only 75bps would be enough for original Minitel output. This was balanced against a comparatively lightning-like speed of 1200bps for input, to produce a Minitel performance speed which increasingly became embarrassingly slow, as public networking telecommunications standards rose through 2400bps, 4800bps, 9600bps and 14,400bps, to the current 28,800bps and ISDN speeds of 56kbps and 64kbps.

Minitel has upgraded. Modems in France are more expensive than they are in the US -- about double, like everything else in computer hardware -- but they now are plentiful, and they run at the same 28,800bps speeds. More importantly, for Minitel, France Telecom

switching equipment located throughout the country, which was set to handle only the old, slower, standard, now has been upgraded to handle higher speeds. ISDN is generally available in France now -- the simplest connection involves a stiff installation charge but only US\$60 per month for operations -- unlike ISDN in the US, where it still largely is experimental and oriented only toward commercial users. Also, general public user ISDN applications, although new, already are available for the Minitel. Minitel does now face the "question of cable" -- 10 megabit per second speeds which will dwarf current telephone connectivity possibilities, and "set-top boxes" which may or may not be computers -- but in this it is no different from the Internet: both are "services", and neither really needs to rely on particular hardware, software, or even connectivity media.

So Internet and Minitel both are expanding, and users on both systems can communicate back and forth with increasing ease. The question becomes, what will become of this meeting of the two: how will the two combine, or will they?

This question is seen at first glance, and perhaps understandably, in competitive terms. "Which will bury the other?" is the Minitel/Internet question first asked both by French technocrats and by their US Internet marketer counterparts. There is a history to this competitive attitude. It extends back to recent "protocol wars" which supposedly took place between European "OSI" and American "tcp/ip" advocates [Peter H. Salus, "Protocol Wars: Is OSI Finally Dead?", in *Connexions*, August, 1995, v.9 n.8, p.16]: wars, or at least tensions, which still rankle in the minds of some European networkers. But it goes back farther, to the jealousies and trans-Atlantic bickerings addressed in Jean Jacques Servan-Schreiber's book about the 1960's, and thence even farther, through several hundred years of US-European rivalry, jealousy, and competition, years which have been usually friendly, occasionally fierce, and on a few occasions even warlike. Minitel /Internet combination issues are not new, but are part of a large and very old set of issues in US/European relations.

There is, however, at least one factor in this supposed Minitel / Internet competition which is both very new and very particular to the technical medium that both systems represent. "Convergence" -- of technique, of equipment, of strategies and approaches and applications

## THE FRENCH MINITEL (PART 2) - CONT

-- increasingly is being seen as the outstanding characteristic of the next phase of digital information's development. There is much talk now, at industry trade shows, in Internet and computing literature, and on-line generally, of an imminent blending -- labeled "convergence" -- of heretofore-different approaches in hardware and software and interface design, of methods of telecommunications access, of strategies and approaches in marrying users with systems. Such "convergence" no doubt would be temporary, even if it does occur: digital information and networking so far, in their short lives, already have been through several cycles of explosive variety followed by temporary consolidation. But the industry appears to feel that another period of consolidation is about to arrive. It might be useful to conclude here with an observation on how the Internet/Minitel confrontation might shed light on a general digital information and networking "convergence" which many feel is about to occur.

5.0 Convergence and the Future Matrix: Through a glass, very darkly....

The outstanding characteristic of the Internet's current development phase is its opening to the general public. The "academic test-bed" phase firmly is over, and an era of "lowest common denominator users" and "commercial applications" just as firmly has begun. Government-funded abstract research Internet projects are being eclipsed in size now by commercial Internet venture capital investment (US\$5 billion for the first nine months of 1995, by one account, with US\$1 billion of it in California alone). Supercomputer applications already have been replaced by World Wide Web browser development. This is all new territory for Internet networkers: among them there is much concern -- and many misgivings -- as to whether their Internet will be able to scale "up", or "down", to the "general public".

The Minitel represents the exact opposite of the traditional academic Internet, but the opposite to which the Internet now ironically is being led by its own internal development dynamic. General public access, with commercial applications and terrible political and legal questions of the necessity for and dangers of centralized censorship and control: this is the Minitel already, and it is the "general public" user world toward which the Internet now is careening. The Minitel certainly could profit from some of the indexing sophistication and general technologies of the Internet. Internet Web pages already are beginning to resemble -- in their simplicity, pictorial orientation, and increasingly "sales and marketing" approach -- the previously much-scorned "alpha-mosaic" cartoon-like interface screens of the Minitel.

There is much possibility here for "convergence" -- also for duplication of effort and the re-inventing of wheels. The Internet, no doubt, will wish to market to the "general public" somewhat differently than the Minitel did. Minitel may want different techniques than those which it sees in the current Internet, and it may simply be snuffed out by overwhelming Internet competition, the latest "American Challenge". The true test in "scaling up and out" of either, though, ultimately will come in Asia, where there are far more users, increasingly as much technical capacity and expertise, and now far more money, for digital information and networking, than there are in the US and Europe combined. The question for networking's next generation is what will scale up for Asia? To meet this challenge, some "convergence" -- some pooling of talents and approach, combining the sophisticated with the simple, the academic with the commercial, the decentralized and chaotic with the centralized and bureaucratic and controlled -- might not be such a bad idea for both the Internet and the Minitel to pursue now.



# DEBATE OVER WHO INVENTED FIRST PHONE HUSHED UP FOR 50 YEARS

By Roger Highfield, Science Editor -UK Telegraph

Evidence of a 50-year-old cover-up to curb public debate over whether a German science teacher invented the first telephone rather than the Scot Alexander Graham Bell has been discovered in the Science Museum, London.

Alexander Graham Bell

Tests conducted after the Second World War on a primitive German telephone that predates Bell's by 13 years were suppressed by a prominent businessman, ensuring that there would be no debate over whether the Scot really deserved to be called the father of modern communications.

Previously unseen documents show how experiments conducted in 1947 on a range of phones revealed that a device developed by Philipp Reis (1834-1874) - from an earlier version based on sausage skin - actually worked, said John Liffen, Science Museum curator.

Engineers from the British firm Standard Telephones and Cables (STC) found that Reis's 1863 "Telephon" could transmit speech, albeit faintly, and that his receiver would also "reproduce speech of good quality but of low efficiency".

But Sir Frank Gill, chairman of STC, ordered that the tests were kept secret.

STC was at the time attempting to win a deal with the American Telephone and Telegraph company, which had evolved from the Bell Company, and Sir Frank thought the results could wreck his plans by reflecting badly on STC. The file, marked "confidential" and discovered by Mr Liffen at the Science Museum a few

weeks ago, reveals the extent of the cover-up.

One memo, dated March 18, 1947, from Gerald Garratt, Mr Liffen's predecessor as the museum's curator of communications, describes how the STC reports were given to him "on the strict understanding that they will not be referred to publicly nor published without their permission".

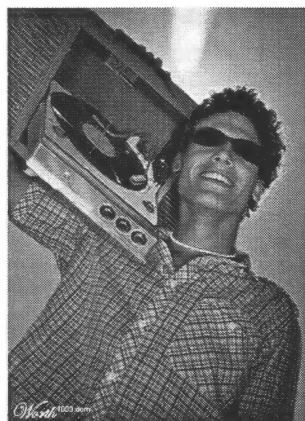
He added: "The immediate reason for this reticence is that a commercial agreement is in the process of negotiation at the present time between STC and ATT - and the mutual relations would not be improved by any suggestion originating from STC that Graham Bell did not invent the telephone."

A subsequent letter from Garratt reveals how STC was so concerned about the results that it demanded all files relating to the Reis tests be returned. Garratt wrote: "I am frankly uneasy at all this secrecy . . . I am left with the thought that there is something so secret about them as to be a matter of first class public interest.

"You must know as well as I the old controversy 'Did Bell invent the telephone?' and I have here an unpublished manuscript of over 400 pages which proves pretty conclusively that he didn't.

"Does your anxiety to retrieve these reports rather suggest that you agree?"

All documents were eventually returned to the Science Museum in 1955 but their significance was only recognised when Mr Liffen stumbled across them a few weeks ago.



# THE STORY OF FISKVILLE

By Ian McLean, VK3JQ

## Where it all began...

During the development of this article it was found that an explanation of where the original ideas came from and how they effected (sic) the creation of the Beam Wireless service was in order. Many people were involved, some well known and some very obscure. The Beamers themselves deserve special merit.

First we have to recap some of our history before introducing the Amalgamated Wireless Australasia Ltd/OTC beam wireless station at Fiskville. Some of this history will be familiar, but then, some of it will not.

## Transmitting Electrical Signals

Wireless transmission of intelligence is a modern satisfaction of one of the oldest cravings of man, who has always sought the annihilation of distance by communication through space without material linkage over the intervening expanse. Early experimenters with the telephone, particularly, were enthusiastic seekers of a method of wireless electrical communication that would convey the voice through space in the manner in which the air conducted sound. David Edward Hughes had noted, in 1879, that when an electric spark was produced anywhere in his house he heard a noise in his telephone receiver.

He traced the effect to the action of the carbon granules in contact with a metal disk in his telephone, which acted as a detector of the space waves by sticking together slightly, reducing the resistance of the mass, and producing a click in the receiver.

Prof. A. E. Dolbear, of Tufts College, amplified this observation and set up, in 1882, a demonstration set using the principle but eliminating the telephone set. He used a spark coil for creating waves and a mass of carbon granules for detecting them. This is exactly the "wireless" system that Marconi "discovered" fourteen years later.

Michael Faraday, in London, had described in 1845 his theory of the relationship between light and the electromagnetic lines of force; and in 1862 James Clerk Maxwell published an analysis of Faraday's work which gave a mathematical basis for the theory that light waves were electromagnetic in nature, and that it was possible for such waves to exist very much shorter and very much longer than the known wavelength of visible light. This

was a challenge to scientists to prove the existence of such waves.

Prof. Heinrich Hertz, at Bonn, Germany, from 1886 to 1888, undertook the search for the waves longer than light or heat. He produced them by the spark discharge of an induction coil and recaptured them from space, at a short distance, in the form of a tiny spark that jumped the gap in a slotted ring of wire.

Meanwhile, Nikola Tesla was preparing to demonstrate his wireless system. In the spring of 1897 he was ready to make, on his wireless transmitter and receiver, the distance tests which had been interrupted by a fire two years before.

The success of these tests were announced by Tesla in an interview with a representative of the. Electrical Review which was published in the issue of July 9, 1897, of that journal.

It stated:

"Nearly every telegraphic inventor has for years dreamed in his waking hours of the possibility of communicating without wires. From time to time there has appeared in the technical journals a reference to the experiments showing the almost universal belief among electricians that, some day, wires will be done away with. Experiments have been made attempting to prove the possibilities, but it has remained for Mr. Nikola Tesla to advance a theory, and experimentally prove it, that wireless communication is a possibility and by no means a distant possibility. Indeed, after six years of careful and conscientious work, Mr. Tesla has arrived at a stage where some insight into the future is possible.

A representative of the Electrical Review receives the assurance personally from Mr. Tesla who, by the way, is nothing if not conservative, that electrical communication without wires is an accomplished fact and that the method employed and the principles involved have nothing in them to prevent messages being transmitted and intelligibly received between distant points. Already he has constructed both a transmitting apparatus and an electrical receiver which at distant points is sensitive to the signals of the transmitter, regardless of earth currents or points of the compass. And this has been done with a surprisingly small expenditure of energy.

## THE STORY OF FISKVILLE - CONT

Tesla's work with high frequency and high potential currents has been notable. As long ago as 1891 he foretold the present results, both as to vacuum tube lighting and intercommunication without wires. The former has in his hands assumed a condition capable of a public demonstration of the phenomena of the electrostatic molecular forces. Numberless experiments were carried out, and from what then was a startling frequency of 10,000 per second Mr. Tesla has advanced to what now is a moderate rate at 2,000,000 oscillations per second."

This announcement recorded the birth of modern radio - radio as it is in use today, born on a boat traveling up the Hudson River, carrying the receiving set twenty five miles from the Houston Street laboratory, a distance which was a small fraction of the range of the set but enough to demonstrate its capabilities.

Such an accomplishment was worthy of a flamboyant smash announcement instead of Tesla's very modest statement and the even more conservative manner in which the Electrical Review treated the news.

Tesla had to protect not only his patent rights, which would be jeopardized by premature disclosure, but also had to be on guard against invention invaders and patent pirates, with whom he had previously had unpleasant experiences.

The Electrical Review, naturally enough, was fearful of the consequences of "sticking its neck out by too enthusiastic a reception before full details were available.

Radio as it exists today is, therefore, the product of the genius of Nikola Tesla. He is the original inventor of the system as a whole and of all the principal electrical components. The man who, next to Tesla, is entitled to the greatest amount of credit is Sir Oliver Lodge, the great English scientist.

Lodge, early in 1894, had put a Hertz spark gap in a copper cylinder open at one end; and in this way he produced a beam of ultra-short-wave oscillations which could be transmitted in any direction. He did the same for the receiving set. Since the incoming waves could be received from only one direction, this receiving set was able to locate the direction from which the transmitted waves came. With this set he completely anticipated Marconi by two years. In the summer of that year, in a demonstration before the British Association

for the Advancement of Science at Oxford, he sent Morse signals, with an improved set, between two buildings separated by several hundred feet.

It is little wonder, then, that Marconi, who started his studies of wireless in 1895, created no stir in the scientific circles in England when he came from Italy to London in 1896 with a wireless set that in every essential feature was the same as that demonstrated by Lodge in 1894. He used a parabolic reflector, so his set was little more than an electrical searchlight. He did, however, bring an alternative feature to replace the parabolic beam reflector. This was a ground connection and antenna, or aerial wire, for both sending and receiving set. This was exactly what Tesla had described in his plan published three years before.

### **Guglielmo Marchese Marconi (1874-1937)**

Guglielmo Marconi was born on the morning of 25th of April 1874 at the Palazzo Marescalchi in the Italian city of Bologna. Guglielmo being Italian for William. Marconi was the son of a well-to-do business man called Giuseppe and his second wife, Annie. As a young man Marconi read about the work of Heinrich Hertz in an Italian electrical journal, but they had only been of passing interest to Marconi at that time.

One summer Marconi went to a hotel in the Alps with his step brother Luigi and brother Alfonso and one night, with the cent and rustle of the pine trees just outside his window, the 20 year old youth lay awake unable to sleep. For some reason his mind went back to Hertz. Suddenly, in a shinning moment of inspiration the tremendous idea was born. With the aid of Hertz discoveries he could use the Hertzian waves of the air for telegraphy without wires.

Educated in Leghorn (Livorno). He studied physics under several well-known teachers and had the opportunity of learning about the work carried out on electromagnetic radiation by Heinrich Hertz, Oliver Lodge, Augusto Righi, and others.

"The air" wrote a man in London not long after, "is full of promises of miracles"

But that was yet to come...

By the end of 1895 using home made apparatus he sent long wave signals over a distance of 1 mile from the



## THE STORY OF FISKVILLE - CONT

garden in Bologna. He received little encouragement to continue his work in Italy and was advised to go to England. He went to England in February 1896 and established the Wireless Telegraphic and Signal Co. Ltd., which in 1900 became Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co at Chelmsford, Essex. Marconi was granted his first patent, number 12039 covering transmission by wireless telegraphy and by July had conducted tests from the General post office building in London covering 1.5 miles. By the 2nd of September 1896 this had already increased to 8 miles with tests at Salisbury plain.

The next step was to establish that communications was possible over water, and on 11 May 1897 tests were carried out across the Bristol channel from Lavernock point, Near Penarth to the Island of Holm, a distance of 3.5 miles. This was the first time Marconi worked with a new acquaintance, George S. Kemp who was to remain one of Marconi's closest friends and assistant until his death in 1933.

In July 1898, the Daily Express was the first newspaper in history to obtain news by wireless telegraphy and in August 1898 wireless was installed on the Royal yacht Osborne for Queen Victoria. In December 1898 wireless communication was established between the East Goodwin light ship and the South Foeland lighthouse and on the 3rd of March the following year, for the first time, wireless was used for the saving of life. Summer 1899 finally saw cross channel wireless in use and on 15 November 1899 the first ocean newspaper published bulletins sent by wireless.

The development of a great invention seldom occurs through one individual man, and many forces have contributed to the remarkable results achieved. Marconi's original system had its weak points. The electrical oscillations sent out from the transmitting station were relatively weak and consisted of "damped oscillations". The radiation of damped wave trains from a spark gap transmitter produces interference covering a wide frequency band.[1,2] A result of this was that the waves had a very weak effect at the receiving station, with the further result that waves from various other transmitting stations readily interfered with the desired signal.

It is due above all to the inspired work of Professor Ferdinand Braun that this unsatisfactory state of affairs was overcome.

Braun made a modification in the layout of the circuit

of the transmitter so it was possible to produce intense waves with very little damping. It was only through this that the so called "long-distance telegraphy" became possible, where the oscillations from the transmitting station, as a result of resonance, could exert the maximum possible effect upon the receiving station. The further advantage was obtained that only waves of the frequency used by the transmitting station were effective at the receiving station. It is only through the introduction of these improvements that the magnificent results in the use of wireless telegraphy have been attained.[1]

On the 26th of April 1900 Marconi took out his patent number 7777 for "Tuned Syntonic Telegraphy". This invention introduced tuned circuits to wireless.

On 23rd January 1901 the first long distance transmission was made from the Isle of Wight to The Lizard in Cornwall. A distance of 196 miles.

On 26th November 1901 Marconi and his two assistants, G.S.Kemp and P.W.Paget sailed on the Sardinian from Liverpool for St.Johns, New foundland to start transatlantic tests. They arrived in New Foundland on the 6th of December. On Thursday the 12th of December 1901 Marconi succeeded in transmitting and receiving transatlantic signals and the morse letter "S" was received at Signal hill, St.Johns, New foundland from Poldhu, Cornwall using a kite aerial at Signal Hill.

Marconi and Braun shared the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1909

### **Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd (AWA) (1913 - 1988)**

Sir Ernest Thomas Fisk, Born at Sunbury, Middlesex, England on August 8th 1886, founded Amalgamated Wireless Australasia Ltd, and pioneered Australia's beam wireless service.

He received his training in radio operations at the training school run by the Marconi Company, which he joined in 1906. As a result of this, he became a radio operator on the Cunard liner Campania running between Liverpool and New York.

The Marconi company sent him in 1910 to demonstrate their equipment in Australia, where in 1911 he set up branches of the company. In 1913 an amalgamation took place between Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd, Telefunken and the Australian Wireless Company. This



## THE STORY OF FISKVILLE - CONT

merger formed Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd.

In 1916 he became its managing director and in 1932 chairman of directors.

On 22 September 1918 Fisk received the first direct radio message from Britain to Australia. In 1920 he established the first wireless newspaper service to British ships in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and in 1934 made the first voice contact between Australia and England when he spoke to Marconi in England.

He resigned from AWA in 1944 to become managing director of the English group, EMI, and in 1952 he became a business consultant. He died on the 8th of July, 1965, at his home in Roseville.

### Wireless Telegraphy in Australia

In Australia - a newly federated country - wireless telegraphy quickly came under the control of the new Federal Government through the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1905.

In 1906 the Marconi Company, in an attempt to obtain authority to develop wireless telegraphy services in



Australia, installed transmitting and receiving equipment at Queenscliff, Victoria and at Devonport, Tasmania and conducted successful communications across Bass Strait, but the Government did not purchase the equipment or approve the service.

In this same year Australia's first two-way wireless telegraphy station was built at Queenscliff in Victoria, Marconi was almost monopolizing the industry worldwide with companies in Europe, the USA (later to be renamed the Radio Corporation of America - RCA - in 1919) and Australia. Since then broadcasting has remained the

responsibility of federal governments.

Since 1906, the Marconi Company had been making proposals to link Britain with the countries of the British Empire by radio. Initially, the proposal was for an 'Imperial Wireless Chain' of repeater stations no more than 1600 km apart, but by 1911, it had been decided to use very high powered long-wave stations situated in England and the other countries to communicate directly. E.T. Fisk of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd. went to England in 1916 to discuss the proposals to link Australia with Britain in this way, and contracts were let with the Marconi Company.

*To be continued in the next issue*

## MAGNIFIER FOR WINDOWS

### From UK Telegraph

**Question:** I have a friend who is going blind. She is unable to see the icons on her PC and finds it difficult to use her programs. She can touch type but is unable to see if she has made a mistake. Do you know of a program that will input a magnifier onto her screen that will enable her to see the icons and be able to use the start menu?

G Sims, via email

**Answer:** All versions of Windows come with a simple Screen Magnifier utility, though it is not normally installed by default on Windows 9x (95/98/SE/ME). To do that go to Add/Remove programs in Control Panel, click the Windows Setup tab, double click Accessibil-

ity then check the item Accessibility tools, click OK and follow the prompts.

The Windows XP magnifier is a little more sophisticated, to switch it on go to Start > All Programs > Accessories > Accessibility > Magnifier; there's a detailed user guide on the Microsoft web site at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/windowsxp/usingmagnifier.aspx>

The Windows magnifiers are a little basic but there's plenty of more advanced shareware and freeware programs available and the best place to start looking is the Screen Magnifier's homepage at:

<http://www.magnifiers.org/main2.shtml>

# ACCESS HOTMAIL EMAIL VIA OUTLOOK EXPRESS?

From UK Telegraph

Before you can access a Hotmail account via Outlook Express, you must already have an active Hotmail email account. If you haven't already got one, go to <http://www.hotmail.com/> and sign up for a free account.

Next, primarily for security reasons, I recommend you take this opportunity to upgrade Outlook Express, prior to using it to access your Hotmail account.

You can get the latest version of Outlook Express using the Windows Update website: <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com>

Once you have the latest version of Outlook Express installed on

your system, click "Start" > "Programs" > "Outlook Express" to open Outlook Express, and carry out the following instructions:

- \* Click "Tools" > "Accounts".

- \* Next click the "Add" button on the Internet Accounts window, then click "Mail..."

- \* In the "Display Name:" box, type the name that you want to appear when somebody receives an email from you. When you have done that click "Next".

- \* In the "E-mail address" box, type the full email address of your Hotmail account, e.g. "johnsmith@hotmail.com" (without the quotes). Once you've done that click "Next".

- \* In the "My incoming mail server is:" box, ensure it is set to HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol). If HTTP is not available, you do not have the newest version of Outlook Express, so you will need to download it. Next set "My HTTP mail service provider is:" to "Hotmail". Now ensure that "<http://services.msn.com/svcs/hotmail/httpmail.asp>" (without the quotes) appears in the "Incoming mail (POP3, IMAP or HTTP) server:" box, and click "Next".

- \* Type your full email address in the "Account name:" box, e.g. "johnsmith@hotmail.com" (without the quotes), then type the password for that account in the "Password:" box. Once you have filled out these boxes correctly, click "Next".

- \* Finally, click "Finish".

Once you have set up Outlook Express to access your Hotmail account using the steps above, you will be returned to the "Internet Accounts" window. Here you must click "Close". You can now use Outlook Express to send and receive email with your Hotmail account.

# CONGESTION CHARGE IN LONDON

From New Scientist - Feedback

THE whole world is watching the progress of London's pioneering congestion charging scheme, which relies on video cameras and computers to recognise car number plates. We recently asked the organisers, Transport for London, a simple question: how do drivers change their payment details on the TfL computer?

TfL encourages electronic communication, so we sent a plain text email. Back came a prompt reply, unfortunately without an actual answer. Instead it contained the instruction to download a large HTML attachment containing the said answer.

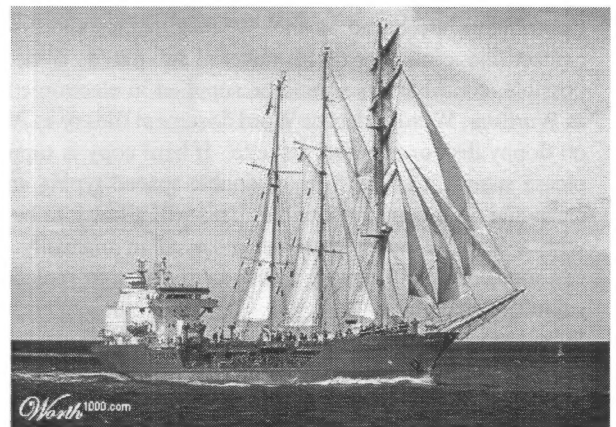
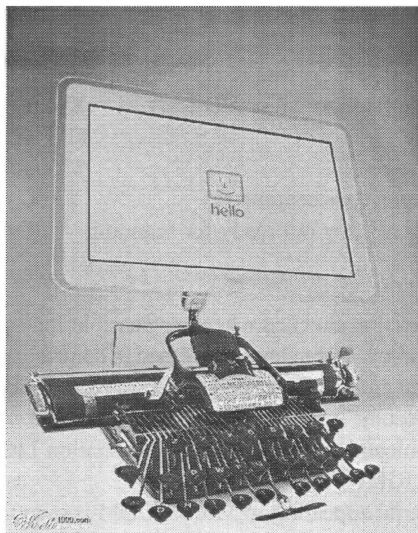
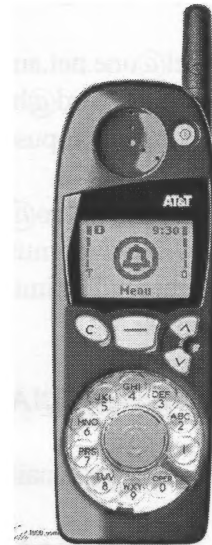
Unskilled users often do not know how to download and open attachments, and some simple or mobile email systems cannot handle them. Skilled users worry about the viruses they might contain, and office

systems sometimes block them. So we asked TfL's customer services manager, Maggi Corby, why she couldn't just send simple text replies. Instead of answering, she told us we would need Acrobat software available from Adobe's website to download and read the attachment. "But you may not be able to open an attachment if your virus checker is set too high."

So instead of sending easy-to-read, virus-safe plain text emails, the computer wizards at TfL prefer to bury their simple replies in big computer files readable only with the help of more big computer files. Even then you may be foiled if your virus checker takes fright and rejects the file.

All of which brings to mind the consumer electronics industry adage: "KISS - keep it simple, stupid."

# HUMOUR - OLD AND NEW



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## **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR ACCA**

### **VENUE FOR MEETINGS.**

**Kirribilli Club, Cliff Street, Milsons Point,  
7.30pm**

**Monday, 15 March**

**Monday, 19 April**

**Monday, 17 May**

Members can meet before the main  
discussion for a meal 6.30pm. The meeting will  
start at 7.30pm.

**What are your suggestions for  
meeting places?**

**What are your suggestion for  
interesting speakers?**

**Contact via email or ring Peter on 02 9960 1486  
or Warren on 02 4362 2316**

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